

Leek
District



Urban
Council.

JOINT REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

ON THE

Sanitary Condition of Leek,

For the Year 1914.

LEEK:

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE LEEK URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

In placing before you my report for the year 1914 I have endeavoured to follow the suggestions drawn up by the Local Government Board, and have placed the various matters under the headings and in the order requested by the Board.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births

The number of Births registered during the year was 343, which is 42 below the average for the preceding ten years, yielding a rate of 19·2 per 1,000. There were 23 still births during the year.

Deaths.

The total number of Deaths registered was 247 which is 2·2 less than the ten year's average, and yields an uncorrected death rate of 14·4 per 1,000; this mortality rate, when the necessary corrections have been made, becomes 13·8 per 1,000 of the population.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Zymotic Class.

The Zymotic Class of diseases is responsible for 8 deaths, the average for the previous ten years being

19'2; of these 1 each were attributed to measles and scarlet fever, and 6 to whooping cough.

In all cases of infectious disease the premises have been promptly inspected, and careful investigation made to discover the source of infection, any sanitary defects discovered being remedied forthwith.

The local milk supply was free from suspicion in every instance.

During the year 87 cases of scarlet fever have been notified, the majority of these have been mild attacks. One death has been attributed to this disease.

Four cases of diphtheria have been notified, these have been mostly mild in character.

We keep a stock of Antitoxin for free distribution at the Sanitary Office, available for the use of Doctors for the cure and prevention of diphtheria among the poor.

We continue to use and appreciate the facilities given by the County Council for the bacteriological examination in cases of suspected diphtheria and phthisis.

Phthisis has been responsible for 25 deaths, the average for the preceding ten years being 24'5.

During the year 44 cases of Pulmonary Phthisis have been notified, warnings and instructions with regard to spitting have been issued, and spitting flasks and a regular supply of disinfectants provided for patients.

Disinfection of premises is carried out in every case after death occurs.

Local Diseases.

In the class of local diseases the mortality from diseases of the brain and nervous system was 38, the average for ten years being 40·8; that from heart affections 39, the ten years' average being 38·5; that from diseases of the digestive organs 14, the average for ten years being 24·6; that from diseases of the respiratory organs 33, the ten years' average being 41·7; and that from malignant disease 14, the ten years' average being 13·7.

VACCINATION.

Through the courtesy of the Vaccination Officer, I am able to give figures relating to the last 18 years' experience in the District.

	Births.	Vaccinated.	Exemptions.	Insusceptible.	Removed.	Dead.	Postponed.
Average for 10 years 1897 to 1906	413·7	227·8	62·3	·4	9	41	13·8
Average for 5 years 1907 to 1911	375·2	80·2	212·3	·4	4·8	36	37·8
1912	342	56	246	0	0	14	32
1913	331	50	221	0	1	28	31
1914	343	29	246	0	6	26	36

The figures in these columns apply only to those children registered during the year, a proportion of which still remains under the vaccination age.

We cannot ignore the fact that there is a considerable opposition to vaccination, in spite of improved methods,

vaccination performed at the home, and the use of glycerinated lymph.

The number of cases vaccinated is only ~~29.0~~^{29.0} per cent. and the number of exemptions is 71.4 per cent. of the total number of births registered, which figures do not speak well for the safety of the community.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT UNDER ARTICLE XX.

During the year ended December, 1914 the following cases of Nuisance and other matters complained of were dealt with, comprising —

	CASES
Defective or want of private drainage	23
Drains tested with smoke	14
Choked Sewers	1
Defective Water-Closets	15
Privies converted into Water-closets	5
Ashpits abolished	4
Accumulation of offensive matter	5
Fowls kept in back yard	2
Emitting black smoke from furnace chimney ...	3
Want of drain ventilation	4
Houses in a filthy condition	5
Nuisances arising from overcrowding	32
Defective water spouting	11
Defective roofs	4
Slaughter-house nuisance	1

	CASES
Want of proper recepticle for stable manure ...	1
Offensive swill tubs	6
Want of proper ventilation	12
Want of proper paving in private yards attached to dwelling-houses	16
Want of proper privy or water-closet accommodation	6
Want of proper moveable receptacles for ashes ...	156
Number of houses disinfected .. .	136
Number of Schools disinfected	2
Number of infected articles, bedding, etc., disinfected	3720

A considerable number of nuisances were promptly abated on their being intimated to the persons responsible.

There are several unexpired notices of nuisance remaining on the books not yet complied with.

REMOVAL OF ASHES AND NIGHTSOIL.—The Scavenging Department removed 4252 loads of house ashes and garbage compared with 4452 during the preceding year, and 42 loads of nightsoil compared with 55 the preceding year. 469 loads of shop refuse compared with 462 the preceeding year.

The Council having intructed me to see that in future only proper movable covered galvanized iron receptacles are provided, but in the absence of the necessary bye-law, I find a difficulty in carrying the same into effect.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.—There are 4 houses registered under the Common Lodging-houses Acts for the reception of 111 casual lodgers.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There are 7 premises situate at

various points in the town licensed for occupation as Slaughterhouses.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are 23 Bakehouses within the district, all of which were inspected half-yearly, and at other times as occasion required.

PETROLEUM STORES.—There are 6 Licenses in force for the keeping and sale of Petroleum that flash under 73 degrees Farenheit's thermometer (the maximum quantity stored never to exceed 100 gallons) and 1 for the keeping and sale of Calcium Carbide. There are also 2 private storehouses for the keeping of Petroleum under the Home Secretary's order.

GAS SUPPLY.—The purity of the Gas supplied to the town was tested from time to time in the manner required by the 34th and 35th Vic., chap. 41. No impurity arising from the presence of sulphuretted hydrogen was shown by the test made at the Town Hall during the year.

INTERMENTS WITHIN THE TOWN.—During the year ending December, 1914, 3 interments took place in the Burial Ground attached to St. Edward's Church, and 4 in the ground attached to Mount Pleasant Wesleyan Chapel. The provisions of the Orders in Council relating thereto were duly observed.

CANAL BOATS ACTS, 1877 AND 1884.—During the year ending December, 1914, 6 Canal Boats were inspected within the Urban Sanitary District of Leek.

DAIRIES, COW-SHEDS AND MILK-SHOPS ORDER, 1885.—There are 48 persons registered under the above Order.

20 are Milk-Shops, and the remainder Dairies and Cow-Sheds. There are 182 milch cows kept. All the said premises were inspected once during the year.

FRANK GREEN,

Sanitary Inspector.

MILK SUPPLY.—The milk produced or sold in the town is generally of a good wholesome quality.

FOOD SUPPLY.—The food supply of the town is generally good.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water supply is sufficient, wholesome, and free from risk of serious pollution taking place within the district.

DRAINAGE.—The drainage work at corner of Abbott's Lane and Novi Lane is now being carried out.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—The new installation is working well and continues to give good results. The character of our crude sewage is of such unusual strength, that the sprinklers cannot deal with a sufficient quantity; in order that this may be done we require a special settling tank and an increased number of sprinklers.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.—The system in vogue for the disposal of excrement is mainly the water-carriage system, the remaining privies being gradually replaced by wash-down closets, either hand-flushed or furnished with flushing apparatus. There are 78 privies now in existence in the district, 30 of which are in positions where no

sewers are available in the outlying rural portions of the district.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE.—The removal of house refuse is accomplished by the public scavengers employed by the Council, who make weekly rounds to collect the contents of the movable receptacles; otherwise where ashpits exist these are emptied on notice being given to the Authority. There are now only 24 ashpits in existence (9 of which are emptied weekly). These are being abolished as quickly as possible.

The disposal of refuse consists in its being emptied on the "tip" at the sewage farm. It is covered with soil almost as it is tipped.

STATEMENT REGARDING HOUSING ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED BY ARTICLE V OF THE HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS 1910.

In continuation of my remarks in my annual report of 1913.

The Sanitary Committee had before them on March 9th, 1914, a further joint report as to the housing conditions, particularly with respect to overcrowding at that time; and they instructed us to still keep the cases of overcrowding under observation. The Sanitary Inspector has accordingly visited these cases from time to time with beneficial results.

The housing question may again be described as less acute than it was, but still existing as a long-

drawn-out malady. The efforts of the builders have been stimulated to a certain extent, and some gain has been accomplished by judicious exchanging of houses; but I cannot say the condition has yet been adequately dealt with.

The clearing of the area known as the "Cross Keys Area" has been completed during the year.

The area known as "Getliffe's Yard," situate Court 5, Derby Street, has been dealt with by closing orders being made in respect to the houses therein, but a difficulty is being experienced in getting owners to receive the inhabitants of this area as tenants.

NUMBER OF DWELLING-HOUSES							
Inspected under and for the purpose of		on	represented	for	in which	put in	No. of
Section 17	Public Health Acts.	Inspection considered unfit for human habitation.	to Authority with view to Closing Order being made.	which Closing Orders were made.	defects were remedied without Closing Order.	order after Closing Order had been made.	defects dealt with under Public Health Acts.
354	123	9	9	9	4	...	354

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The mortality for the year shows a decrease, the rate being 105·2 per 1000 births, as compared with 126 for the preceding 5 years.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

In my monthly report of October 12th last I sketched an outline of a Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme on the following lines:—

Nurse Hall, the Lady Health Visitor, is the nucleus of the scheme, and by extending her sphere of influence on the one hand to expectant mothers, and on the other to children from one year up to school age (5 years), I venture to think we shall not only cover the necessary ground, but be able to supply practical help to both mothers and children, which will in course of time have a very beneficial influence, not only on our infant mortality, but also on our general death rate. I do not think we have a sufficient population to establish at present a "School for Mothers" or a "Children's Clinic," these may be left for later development. The present arrangement will tax Nurse Hall's energy to the utmost, and assistance may possibly have to be afforded her.

The main outlines of the scheme are:—

1. MATERNITY.—The Sanitary Authority will supply to all midwives on the register, forms and stamped envelopes to be filled in and returned to Nurse Hall weekly giving names and addresses of expectant mothers. The Nurse will visit, keep a register, take notes, give instruction and advice, and in cases of necessity wants in the shape of food and clothing will be supplied by vouchers on tradesmen.

If medical help is required for expectant mothers or at the time of confinement and cannot be met in any other way, this will also be supplied.

2. CHILDREN.—Nurse to visit and keep on the register up to school age; food, cod liver oil, parristic syrup supplied in cases of necessity.

The majority of the children are already attended by

the doctors of the dispensaries or the Parish, but where none such are obtainable, the Medical Officer of Health will advise, prescribe and supply medicines.

COST.—In normal times the expenses of this scheme will be comparatively light; if distress should arise through lack of work they will naturally be heavier, but in any case it will be the wisest expenditure ever undertaken by the town authorities, and the Local Government Board promises to pay 50 per cent. on a scheme which meets with their approval.

VOLUNTARY HELP.—I have received a deputation from the Leek Women's Co-operative Guild kindly offering assistance in visiting, or in any way in which they may be of use.

While thanking them for their offer, I cannot at present give them a portion of work until the requirements of the scheme unfold themselves. In the meantime I retain their generous offer to be used when the need arises.

Particulars of the scheme were duly forwarded to the Local Government Board, but I regret to say that up to the present we have not received their sanction; we therefore cannot incur any additional expense, or push on with the work.

LADY HEALTH VISITOR'S REPORT.

To the Medical Officer of Health for the Leek Urban District.

During the last year, from January 1st to December 31st, 1914, 323 houses where births have occurred have been visited. Of these births three were twins, making a total of 326 infants. Seventeen of these were still-born, and of the remaining 309 living infants, 110 were breast-fed, 84 breast and bottle or breast and hand-fed, and 106 entirely bottle-fed. Nine died before any regular method of feeding was adopted.

In each house cards giving hints on "Infant Feeding" have been supplied, and in the majority of cases these have been appreciated and the advice given thereon carried out.

I have made 4,378 return visits, making a total of 4,701, in order to note the progress of the babies, to give further advice, and where necessary, practical assistance.

The mothers of 81 of the infants returned to their work in the mills at the end of the first or second month, giving their babies out to nurses. Amongst these women, owing perhaps to the fear of supervision, there is certainly some slight improvement.

There have been ten notified and six un-notified cases of ophthalmia among the babies born this year. These have been visited four and five times daily, and in each case a perfectly satisfactory recovery resulted.

In two cases where the conditions were adverse, and the attention given in the intervals of my visits very indifferent, I thought it advisable to send them to the Eye Hospital, Manchester. This I did, and was grateful to have them returned perfectly cured.

The Thursday afternoons for weighing babies are still held, but I am sorry to note that they are not as well attended as formerly. This I think may be due to the fact that I am less accessible to many of the mothers and nurses since leaving the centre of the town.

There have been eighteen illegitimate births. Of these one was still-born, and four have died; two at the end of two months (Gastritis and Congenital Syphilis) and two (prematurity) at the age of three and nineteen days respectively.

The new work of extending supervision from one year to five is now in full working order, and I find the card system which you have adopted for me most helpful in simplifying my visiting and note taking. In view of the increased number of visits this extension will eventually entail, I have had to reconstruct my method of visiting.

There have been 27 deaths amongst the babies born this year. Eleven as seen from the appended list were premature births. The deaths are as follows :

Prematurity.

8	at the age of a few hours.
2	„ „ three days—hand-fed.
1	„ „ nineteen days—bottle-fed.

Feeble from Birth.

3	at the age of one month—bottle-fed.
2	„ „ two months—bottle-fed.
1	„ „ eighteen days—breast-fed.

Bronchitis and Whooping Cough.

1	at the age of four months—breast-fed.
1	„ „ three months—bottle-fed.

Gastritis and Enteritis.

1	at the age of seven months—bottle-fed.
1	„ „ four months—breast-fed.
1	„ „ two months—bottle-fed (a twin).
1	„ „ seven weeks—bottle-fed.

Overlaid.

1	at the age of four months—breast-fed.
1	„ „ six weeks—bottle-fed.

Congenital Syphilis.

1	at the age of two months—bottle-fed.
1	„ „ ten days—bottle-fed.

27—Total.

L. HALL,

Health Visitor.

The following tables are compiled in the form required by the Local Government Board and the Staffordshire County Council.

J. MOUNTFORT JOHNSON, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

"TABLE II."
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING
THE YEAR 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.								Cases Removed to Leek Isola- tion Hospital.
	At All Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and up- wards.	
Puerperal Fever...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup ...	4	...	1	1	2	...	...	..	3
Erysipelas ...	21	...	...	...	2	4	11	4	..
Scarlet Fever ...	89	1	18	63	6	1	...	...	87
Phthisis { (a) Under Tuber- culosis Regu- lations, 1908.	44	...	...	6	10	14	10	4	...
(b) Ditto 1911	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) Others ..	16	1	5	7	2	1	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	16	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Totals	192	18	24	77	23	21	21	8	90

Percentage of Total Removals to Hospital
Diphtheria, 75·0. Scarlet Fever, 97·7.

LEEK URBAN DISTRICT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Situate Ashbourne Road, in Leek Urban Area. 18 beds. 3 diseases can be treated concurrently.

Number of Patients in Hospital, January 1st, 1914	...	...	12
do. do. admitted during the year	...	...	104*
do. do. discharged do.	...	...	103
do. do. died do.	...	...	1
do. do. in Hospital, December 31st, 1914	...	...	12

* Including 2 cases of Scarlet Fever and 10 cases of Diphtheria admitted from the Leek Rural District.

The average duration in hospital of each patient discharged or died was 45·4 days.

No Phthisis Sanatorium and Hospital Accommodation is provided, nor any Dispensary.

"TABLE III."

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non- Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All causes { Certified...	236	36	6	11	4	9	22	71	77	43
{ Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping-cough	6	2	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	25	...	...	...	1	7	8	7	2	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	5	1	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	14	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	5	5
Meningitis	34	...	...	2	1	...	2	13	16	11
Organic Heart Disease	39	...	1	...	...	...	4	23	11	6
Bronchitis	12	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	9	1
Pneumonia (all forms).	18	3	2	3	...	1	2	6	1	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	8	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, in- cluding Premature Birth	16	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, exclu- ding Suicide	4	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	1
Suicide	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	43	4	1	1	...	...	...	8	29	11
	236	36	6	11	4	9	22	71	77	43

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR 1914,

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF LEEK,

ON THE

Administration of the Factory and
Workshop Act, 1901, in connection
with Factories, Workshops, Laund-
ries, Workplaces and Homework

1.—INSPECTION.

INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR OR INSPECTOR OF NUISANCE.

Premises. 1	Number of		
	Inspections. 2	Written Notices. 3	Prosecutions 4
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries) ...	51	32	...
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshops Laundries)	46	3	...
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' Premises mentioned in Part 3 of this report)	37	...	...
	134	35	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. 1	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. 5
	Found. 2	Remedied. 3	Referred to H.M. Inspector. 4	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	6	6	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	..	...	..
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	..
Want of Drainage of Floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ... ..	...	...	...	...
<i>Sanitary Accommodation :—</i>				
Insufficient	7	7	...	...
Unsuitable or Defective	44	12	..	...
Not Separate for Sexes	4	4	...	...
Total	61	29	...	...

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.									
	Lists received from Employers.					Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.			Prosecutions.	
	Sending twice in the Year.					Outworkers.			Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists.	Failing to send lists.
	Lists.	Outworkers.	Workmen.	Lists.	Con-tractors	Workmen.	Con-tractors	Workmen.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
Wearing Apparel— (1) Making, &c (2) Cleaning & washing	2	...	17	...	...	...	...

3.—HOME WORK, *continued.*

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLSOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.			OUTWORK IN INFECTED PREMISES, SECTIONS 109, 110.		
Instances.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.	Instances.	Orders made (S. 110.)	Prosecutions (Sections 109, 110).
(12)		(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
...
...

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 181) at the end of the year.	Number.
1	2
Dressmakers, Tailors, Milliners, and Hosiery Establishments...	70
Bakehouses	23
Cabinet Makers, Joiners, Carriage Builders, Wheelwrights, and Woodcarvers	29
Boot, Shoe, and Clog Repairers	16
Blacksmiths, Cycle Repairers, Tinsmiths and Plumbers ...	20
Saddlers, Coopers, Painters, Sculptors, Timber Yards...	7
Basket Makers, Rope Walks, Whiplash Making	4
Cardboard Box Making, Silk Balling, Silk Warehouses...	20
Trimming Warehouse, Fire Lighting Shop... ..	2
Total Number of Workshops in Leek	191

One Underground Bakehouse in use at end of year

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

CLASS.
(1)

NUMBER.
(2)

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—

Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)

55

Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector, remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) { Notified by H.M. Inspector

55

Other Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector

Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—

Certificates granted during the year... ..

In use at the end of the year

1

J. MOUNTFORT JOHNSON, M.D.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

